This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for selecting a server from a plurality of servers to service a request for ~~requested content~~ an asset, comprising:

detecting the addition of ~~new content~~ the asset to an adaptable cache on a first server in the plurality of servers;

updating a first state table on the first server with information about the ~~new content~~ asset stored on the adaptable cache;

communicating the information about the ~~new content~~ asset stored on the adaptable cache to each server in the plurality of servers;

updating state tables of each of the other servers in the plurality of servers with the information about the ~~new content~~ asset stored on the adaptable cache;

designating a director from the plurality of servers to receive the request, ~~wherein the designation is made on a request-by-request basis and wherein any of the plurality of servers can be designated as the director;~~

determining that the ~~requested content~~ asset is not stored on ~~the director~~ a director's adaptable cache by accessing a director's state table stored on the director, wherein the director's state table includes parametric information for each server in the plurality of servers, and wherein the parametric information comprises adaptable cache contents information for each server in the plurality of servers; and

under the direction of the director,

determining ~~whether any other~~ a set of servers from among said plurality of servers that have ~~has~~ the ~~requested content~~ asset stored ~~thereon~~ in their respective adaptable caches by examining the state table on the director;

determining a load factor for each of the ~~other servers having the requested content~~ set of servers; and

selecting ~~one of the other servers having the requested content to service the request,~~ a second server from among the set of servers based on the load factor.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of designating comprises designating the director in a round-robin fashion.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the director is designated based on a load factor analysis for each server among said plurality of servers, the load factor for each server based on parametric information stored in a respective state table thereon, and wherein the designated director has a lowest load factor.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the director upon determining that the ~~requested content~~ asset is present on the director.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said parametric information further comprises functional state and current load of each server.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server comprises extended memory.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server comprises an inline adaptable cache.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each asset represented in the parametric information is a new release.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~rejecting the request upon determining that the requested content is not present on any of the plurality of servers~~ storing the asset on the director's adaptable cache responsive to the request.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising forwarding the request to the ~~selected~~ second server.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising redirecting the request to the ~~selected~~ second server.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ selecting the second server from among the set of servers further comprises:

identifying as available servers any servers whose load factors are below threshold limits;

determining [[if]] that there are [[any]] no available servers; and

upon determining that there are no available servers, selecting a server having a lowest load factor from the other servers having the content.

13. (Currently amended) A server computer configured to direct a request for ~~content~~ an asset among a plurality of server computers comprising:

a state table comprising parametric information for each server in the plurality of server computers, said state table enabling any one of the plurality of server computers to act as a director, said parametric information comprising information identifying assets maintained on the plurality of server computers; ~~and~~

a communication component ~~for concurrently pushing changes to the state table to each of the other servers in said plurality of server computers upon any such change, wherein the addition of an asset to the server computer initiates a change to the state table of the server computer and a transmission of information about the change to each of the other servers in said plurality of server computers,~~ configured to receive a first request for the asset and stream the asset to a requesting device;

a processor configured to determine that the asset is contained on a storage device and not contained on an adaptable cache, and instruct the communications component to stream the asset from the storage device; and

an adaptable cache configured to generate a list of pairs of requests for the asset, determine a pair of requests having the shortest interval between start times, the pair of requests comprising the first request and a second request, store the asset in an adaptable cache storage medium as it is being streamed from the communications

component for the first request, and stream the asset from the adaptable cache storage medium for the second request.

14. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 13, wherein the server computer is a member of a load-balancing group, and the communication component sends changes to server computers in the load-balancing group.

15. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 13, further comprising a redirection means for identifying one of the plurality of server computers where a requested asset is stored.

16. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 13, further comprising a forwarding means for sending the request to one of the plurality of server computers where a requested asset is stored.

17. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 13, wherein said parametric information further comprises functional state and current load of each server computer.

18. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 13, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server computer comprises extended memory.

19. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 13, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server computer comprises an inline adaptable cache.

20. (Original) The server of claim 13, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each asset is a new release.

21. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

adding ~~new content~~ an asset to an adaptable cache on a first server in a plurality of servers, wherein the first server updates a first state table on the first server with information about the ~~new content~~ the asset stored on the adaptable cache, wherein the first server ~~communicate~~ communicates the information about the ~~new content~~ asset stored on the adaptable cache to each server in the plurality of servers, and wherein each server in the plurality of servers updates each state table of each server in the plurality of servers with the information about the ~~new content~~ asset stored on the first server's adaptable cache;

designating a director from the plurality of servers to receive the request, ~~wherein the designation is made on a request by request basis and~~ wherein any of the plurality of servers can be designated as the director;

determining that the ~~requested content~~ asset is not stored on ~~the director~~ a director's adaptable cache by accessing a state table stored on the director, wherein the state table includes parametric information for each server in the plurality of servers, and wherein the parametric information comprises adaptable cache contents information for each server in the plurality of servers; and

under the direction of the director,

determining ~~whether any other~~ a set of servers from among said plurality of servers that have ~~has~~ the ~~requested content~~ asset stored ~~thereon~~ in their respective adaptable caches by examining the state table on the director;

determining a load factor for each of the ~~other servers having the requested content~~ set of servers; and,

selecting ~~one of the other servers having the requested content to service the request,~~ a second server from among the set of servers based on the load factor.

22. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the step of designating comprises designating the director in a round-robin fashion.

23. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the step of designating comprises designating the director on the basis of lowest load.

24. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the step of selecting further comprises selecting the director if the requested content is present on the director.

25. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said parametric information further comprises functional state and current load of each server.

26. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server comprises extended memory.

27. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server comprises an inline adaptable cache.

28. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each asset represented in the parametric information is a new release.

29. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising computer-executable instructions for ~~rejecting the request if the requested content is not present on any of the plurality of servers~~ storing the asset on the director's adaptable cache responsive to the request.

30. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising computer-executable instructions for forwarding the request to the ~~selected~~ second server.

31. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising computer-executable instructions for redirecting the request to the ~~selected~~ second server.

32. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the step of selecting the second server from among the set of servers further comprises:

identifying as available servers one or more servers whose load factors are below threshold limits;

determining that there are no available servers; and

upon determining that there are no available servers, selecting a server having a lowest load factor from the other servers having the content.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising updating parametric information in a state table associated with the selected server, and communicating updated parametric information to the other servers among said plurality of servers.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the updated parametric information is communicated via multicast.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the updated parametric information is communicated via a broadcast message.